

Super Typhoon Babs (20W)

Super Typhoon Babs (20W), the second super typhoon within a 7-day period to strike the Philippines, was initially detected as a tropical disturbance southeast of Guam. While moving west and intensifying, interaction with a Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT) caused the cyclone to slow and move southward for a 36-hour period in the Philippine Sea. As the TUTT filled, TY Babs reached super typhoon intensity (maximum intensity of 135 kt) while moving northwestward off the coast of Mindanao. Passage over central Luzon caused Super Typhoon (STY) Babs to weaken, while steering currents caused a track change northward. A subsequent increase in vertical shear and proximity to land led to rapid weakening and dissipation in the Taiwan Strait.

The initial TCFA was issued at 120900Z October. The first warning was issued at 140900Z October. The system was upgraded to a tropical storm at 150600Z October as it moved westward toward the Philippines at 10 kt.

At approximately 171200Z, TY Babs began to weaken and move south in response to the influence of the TUTT located to the northeast. The TUTT weakened the sub-tropical ridge (thus the slowing and move south) and restricted the cyclone's upper level outflow (the short period of weakening). After the TUTT filled, TY Babs began to re-intensify and moved toward the Philippines, reaching super typhoon intensity on 201200Z October.

STY Babs continued to move northwestward across Cantanduanes and Polillo Islands before making landfall over central Luzon. During passage over Luzon, the cyclone weakened to 85 kt and tracked across the South China Sea where a mid-latitude trough further weakened it and steered it northward.

Super Typhoon Babs (20W) dissipated in the Taiwan Strait due to strong vertical wind shear and the frictional effects of land. The final warning was issued at 272100Z October.

News agencies reported Super Typhoon Babs had a significant impact throughout the Far East. In the Philippines, disastrous mudslides killed 156 people and displaced nearly 400,000 from their homes. In Taiwan, over 20 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, inundating many eastern towns and villages with waist-high flooding. Landslides also wreaked havoc in Taiwan, trapping hundreds in the mountainous interior. In Hong Kong, 64 mph winds closed beaches and kept the local fishing fleet in port.

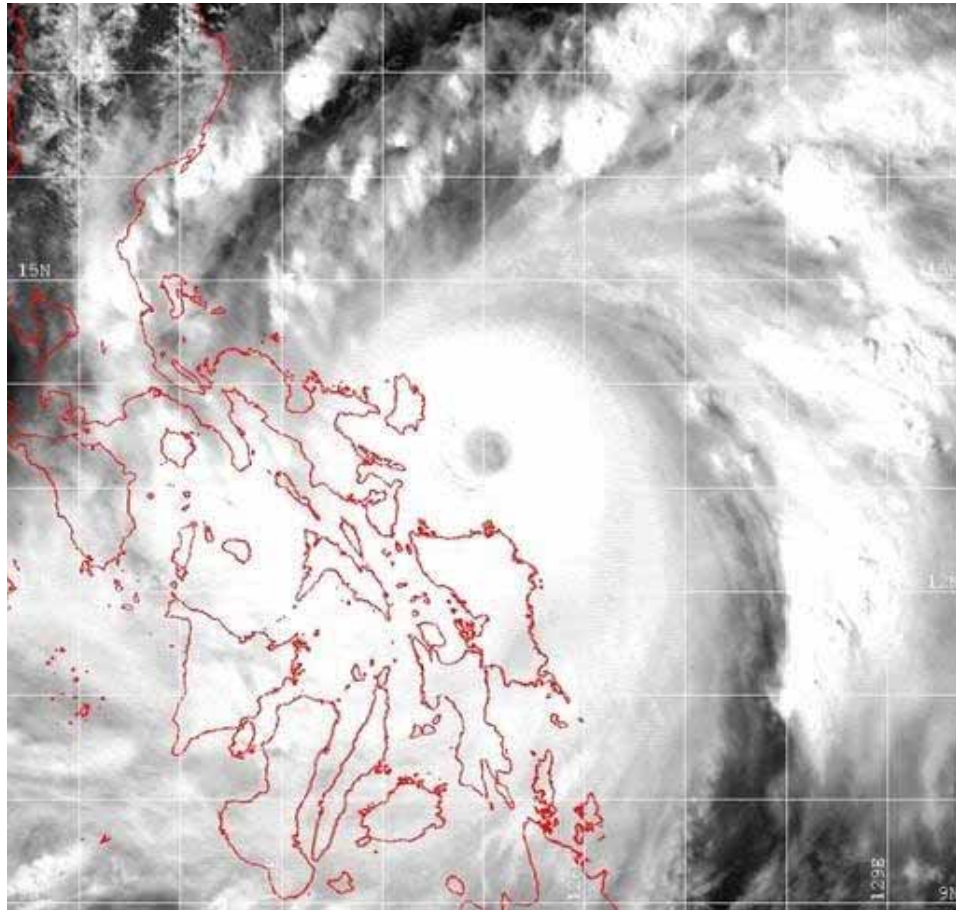
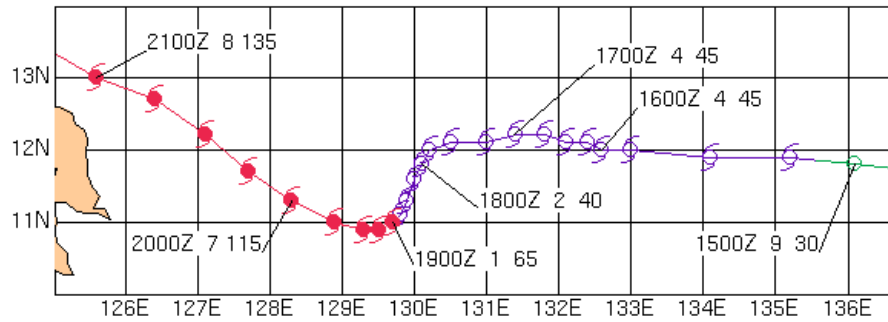
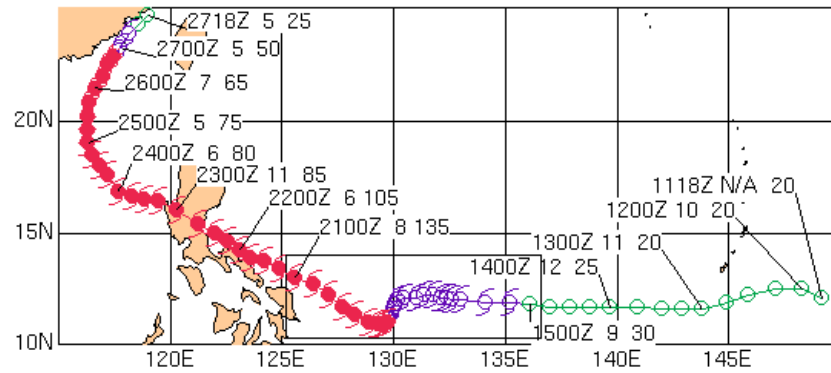


Figure 3-20-1. Visual imagery of Super Typhoon Babs (20W) as it passed over Cantanduanes Island, Philippines.



LEGEND		
▲▲▲	24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION	
○○○	TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/ TROPICAL DEPRESSION	
●●●	TROPICAL STORM	
●●●	TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON	
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION IDENTIFICATION		
DTG	SPD(KT)	INT(KT)
XXXXZ	XX	XX